

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] A short review of ~~operation~~ the operation of a VPN is provided, defining the terms used in the description of the present invention. VPNs ensure segregation of user domain IP address space using route distinguishers (RD), and ~~constrains~~ constrain distribution of routing information at a provider edge (PE) router using forwarding tables VRF. User domain segregation is performed at the ingress PE router, while filtering of the routing information is performed by the egress PE router.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] Routes received at a PE from peers are VPN-IP routes (e.g. VPN-IPv4), each route being accompanied by the export route target configured on the originating VRF. They are first placed into the master routing information base (RIB) 10, as shown in FIG. 2, for PE1 only, after passing an initial input policy check. Then the process (BGP) determines which VRFs the routes need to be placed into (route filtering). ~~ImpRT~~ ImpRTs configured on a VRF are used by BGP to filter ~~these~~ VPN-IP routes that are ~~learnt~~ learned from other PE routers. If a VRF has an ImpRT configured, then only the VPN-IP routes that contain this extended community as a path attribute are ~~learnt~~ learned by this VRF (or in other words, the destination becomes reachable by this VRF). Routes that do not have matching extended community route ~~target~~ targets are not ~~learnt~~ learned by the VRF and are discarded. Each VRF is now associated with a sub-RIB that holds the routing information for that VRF. FIG. 2 illustrates only the sub-RIBs for PE1, which are sub-RIB 21 associated to VRF A 20 and sub-RIB 16 associated to VRF B 15.